

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 16240 251353Z

51

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

REF: STATE 230658 NOTAL

1. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS EVENING
OF OCTOBER 24 AND MORNING OF OCTOBER 25.

2. COVERAGE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. ALL CENTRAL
PRESS FRONT-PAGED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SECRETARY'S
TALKS WITH BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO. THE TALKS ARE DESCRIBED
AS A BUSINESSLIKE AND CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS
ON THE STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND ON PROSPECTS FOR
FUTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RELATIONS, INCLUDING AN
EXAMINATION OF THE LATTER IN THE LIGHT OF AGREEMENTS
REACHED AT EARLIER SUMMITS. THE REPORTS NOTE THAT IN THE
AFTERNOON SESSION OF THE TALKS INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 16240 251353Z

OF MUTUAL INTEREST WERE DISCUSSED, INCLUDING IN

PARTICULAR THE MIDDLE EAST AND CSCE. ALL CENTRAL PRESS REPORTS THE GROMYKO LUNCHEON FOR THE SECRETARY, WITH PRAVDA CARRYING EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS FROM THE TOASTS GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY AND BY GROMYKO. THE NATIONAL TV NEWS THURSDAY EVENING LED OFF WITH A NEARLY TWO MINUTE STORY ON THE SECRETARY'S MEETINGS WITH BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO. COMMENTARY PARALLELED THAT CARRIED IN PRESS REPORTS.

3. MIDDLE EAST. PRAVDA, IN A SIGNED COMMENTARY ON THE ARAB SUMMIT IN RABAT, CALLS THE PLO INVITATION TO SPEAK IN THE UNGA A "SERIOUS DEFEAT FOR ISRAELI DIPLOMACY AND THE FORCES STANDING BEHIND HER." THE COMMENTARY NOTES THAT THE ARAB STATES AT THE SUMMIT WILL HAVE TO AGREE ON POSITIONS ON PLO PARTICIPATION AT THE MEPC AND ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IN THE UN, AS WELL AS COORDINATE OIL POLICIES. IT QUOTES A CAIRO NEWSPAPER (AL-GUMKHURI-PHONETIC) THAT THE SUMMIT WILL STUDY THE "POSSIBILITIES OF RECONVENING" THE MEPC, FOR IT IS A "NECESSARY STARTING POINT" ON THE WAY TO PEACE. PRAVDA AND RED STAR CARRY A SADAT SPEECH IN CAIRO IN WHICH HE STATES THAT THE OCTOBER WAR DID NOT SOLVE THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, ONLY "GOT UNDERWAY" ITS REGULARIZATION. SABAT CONTENTS THAT EVEN WHILE EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO REACH A POLITICAL SOLUTION, ALL ARAB GOVERNMENTS OPPOSING ISRAEL MUST MAINTAIN A HIGH STATE OF DEFENSE READINESS. THE STRUGGLE MUST BE CONTINUED FOR FULL LIBERATION OF SINAI, GOLAN, AND THE WEST BANK. RED STAR AND PRAVDA NOTE THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS EXTENDED THE UN FORCE PRESENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST BY SIX MONTHS.

4. TREATMENT OF THE U.S. NO ARTICLES OR COMMENTARY DIRECTLY CRITICAL OF THE U.S. APPEAR IN THE MORNING'S CENTRAL PRESS, AND THE REFERENCE TO "FORCES BEHIND (ISRAEL)" NOTED ABOVE IS THE ONLY INDIRECTLY CRITICAL COMMENT. PRAVDA PROMINENTLY MENTIONS OPENING OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE U.S.-SOVIET JOINT COMMISSION ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION IN WASHINGTON, REPORTING THAT THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION SAID

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 16240 251353Z

THAT THE TURN FOR THE BETTER IN BILATERAL RELATIONS "HAS BECOME POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE REGULAR CARRYING OUT OF SUMMIT MEETINGS IN PAST YEARS." RED STAR NOTES BRIEFLY FURTHER JOINT PREPARATION EFFORTS FOR THE APOLLO-SOYUZ FLIGHT.

5. KOSYGIN-BHUTTO SPEECHES. KOSYGIN'S SPEECH AT YESTERDAY'S LUNCHEON FOR PAKISTANI PM BHUTTO, CARRIED

IN PRAVDA, CALLS FOR CLOSER SOVIET-PAK RELATIONS AND
COOPERATION; HE ALSO ADVOCATES NORMALIZATION OF
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NATIONS OF SOUTH ASIA. BHUTTO
MADE A SUBTLE PITCH FOR SOVIET ECONOMIC AID. AND HAILED
U.S.-SOVIET STEPS TO LIMIT STRATEGIC WEAPONS.
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